



Panelists

- **Antonio Gutierrez**, Co-founder and Coordinator of Strategic Development and Operations at Organized Communities and Deportation (OCAD)
- **Xanat Sobrevilla**, Deportation Defense Organizer at OCAD
- **Lam Ho**, Executive Director and Founder of Beyond Legal Aid (Beyond)
- **Wally Hilke**, Staff Attorney at Beyond



Justice Power

Justice Power uplifts the work of immigration organizations who partner with communities to know, use and shape the laws that impact their lives.

Justice Power is a network of activists and lawyers who engage in community-centered approaches to build power and increase access to immigrant justice. To learn more check out justicepower.org



What is Legal Empowerment

More than 5 billion people live without access to meaningful justice.

Legal empowerment strives for a different world – one where people are at the center of justice systems and empowered to know, use, and shape the laws that affect their lives. The field gets its roots from the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and now is a global movement with thousands of organizations in over hundred countries committed to community-led justice.

The legal empowerment strategies featured on Justice Power center impacted communities in the right-claiming process, with a goal of **building power, knowledge, and action** from the **grassroots**.



OCAD

- **Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD)** is an

undocumented-led group that organizes against deportations, detention, criminalization, and incarceration, of Black, brown, and immigrant communities in Chicago and surrounding areas.



How do we organize & support people in deportation proceedings?

- Help individuals and family navigate and understand process
- Connect with legal support, and help make case stronger
- Help gather personal documents and support/ proof
- Support in framing of the story for the public & for ICE
- Connect case to civil rights and policy issues
- Getting support from national institutions
- Helping stop a physical deportation





OCAD - Case Strategy Practice:

- How do you make the case stronger?
- What sort of public messaging or frame will you use for the case? [What's the headline? What's the injustice?]
- Who are your allies, likely and unlikely?
- What strategies can you use to stop their deportation?



Beyond Legal Aid



Beyond Legal Aid is transforming legal aid. We shift the power of the law into the hands of communities affected by injustice: supporting them to build their own community-located, community-operated, and community-directed law programs.

Through these programs, Beyond and our partners are able to achieve greater, more durable, impact than what activists or lawyers could working separately.



Beyond Legal Aid

- **Community-Located**
- **Community-Operated**
- **Community-Directed**



Beyond Legal Aid

**Empowering Communities
Depowering Lawyers**

1. Lawyering as a trajectory of humble, vulnerable transformation
2. Relearning what it means to problem-solve
3. Reshape the law and lawyering by ceding control



Case Study #1



Case Study #2



Collective Lessons Learned

- **Create a media communication plan**
- **Streamline communication**
- **Center litigation strategy and planning around the voices of those directly impacted**
- **Be willing to think creatively and translate "non-legal" ideas into legal possibilities**
- **Determine compatible levels of aggression for the organizing and legal strategy**
- **Strategically disrupt the judicial process**



Collective Lessons Learned

- **Organizers need transparency from legal team**
- **Take the time to train one another**
- **Be prepared for the worst case scenario and don't be afraid to ask questions**
- **Be honest about your limitations but also committed to learning**
- **Create trust, hang out, with one another**





Thank you!

To learn more visit JusticePower.org



Questions



Questions?

(Use the chat box on the right of your screen to ask questions.)



Join Us!



Join a community of over 9,000 advocates dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of immigrants in the United States.

To learn more, visit www.immigrationadvocates.org

 twitter.com/immadvocates

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